

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA:HHSANDERS/HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

P - MR. SISCO

S/S : LMATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH

SECRET STATE 195287

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST -- MESSAGE
FOR ASAD

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME FOR
PRESIDENT ASAD AND ASSURE THAT KHADDAM IS INFORMED.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

AFTER FURTHER INTENSIVE EXCHANGES WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF
EGYPT AND ISRAEL OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, WE HAVE DECIDED
THAT THERE IS A BASIS FOR MAKING ANOTHER EFFORT TO CONCLUDE
THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THEM ON A SECOND INTERIM AGREEMENT
LEADING TOWARD A FINAL PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THEREFORE, I AM PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST FOR

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ABOUT TEN DAYS ARRIVING THERE AUGUST 21. I WOULD VERY

MUCH WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AGAIN WITH YOU TO
DISCUSS OUR STRATEGY FOR MOVING THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
FORWARD.

MY VISIT WOULD FALL IN THE PERIOD AUGUST 23-31 IF THAT
WERE CONVENIENT TO YOU. I AM ASKING AMBASSADOR MURPHY
TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU WHEN MY SCHEDULE IS CLEARER TO
DETERMINE WHETHER A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME MIGHT BE
ARRANGED IN THAT PERIOD. END TEXT.

3. YOU SHOULD AT SAME TIME MAKE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING
TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH IS BEING ISSUED SUNDAY AT
NOON BY THE WHITE HOUSE IN COLORADO.

QUOTE: SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE
EAST NEXT WEEK, LEAVING WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 20. THE
DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING WITH THE PARTIES
CONCERNED LOOKING TOWARD AN INTERIM AGREEMENT HAVE
PROGRESSED TO THE POINT WHERE THE PARTIES AND THE
PRESIDENT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE
SECRETARY OF STATE TO TRAVEL TO THE AREA IN AN EFFORT TO
BRING THE TALKS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. THE
SECRETARY'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WILL INCLUDE
SEVERAL ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL. UNQUOTE.

4. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR OUR PLANNING TO HAVE YOUR
REPORT OF ANY INITIAL REACTION FROM SYRIANS ON WHAT
MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT BE CONVENIENT TIMES FOR VISIT. SISCO

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